


SEISDON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1898.

WOLVERHAMPTON :
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PENN FIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON,

February 11th, 1899.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of my father Dr. Wm. Spackman who is too ill to attend to the matter himself, and as your Deputy Medical Officer of Health, I herewith present the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report in respect of the Rural District of Seisdon for the past year 1898.

The POPULATION which in 1897 was 13,416, has increased by 220 to 13,636. Wombourn, according to the estimate of the population for the year ending June 30th, 1898, has increased 83; Tettenhall, 100; and Kinver, 35=220.

DEATHS.

The DEATH RATE is comparatively low, being 13·3 for 1898, compared with the year 1897, when it was 15·8, or 15·4 for the last decade.

DEATHS IN THE REGISTRATION DISTRICTS.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Wombourn	...	37	37	74
Tettenhall	...	22	27	49
Kinver	... ..	29	30	59
Totals	...	88	94	182

The number of uncertified deaths is 3. These have been submitted to the Coroner, who did not think an enquiry necessary.

DEATH RATE FOR THE LAST DECADE.

1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
13·4	15·3	20·9	19·4	13·0	13·5	16·6	13·7	15·5	13·3

I give here a comparative Table of ages at which death occurred during the last 10 years:—

YEARS.	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 60.	60 and upwards.
1889	178	30	12	9	12	36	79
1890	202	42	18	8	8	37	89
1891	254	38	21	8	11	48	128
1892	236	48	7	4	8	52	117
1893	160	29	6	6	6	36	77
1894	169	29	15	13	4	*50	†58
1895	213	49	17	7	6	62	72
1896	180	40	11	3	10	48	68
1897	208	51	18	10	10	43	76
1898	182	49	6	4	8	46	69

* 25 and under 65,

† 65 and upwards.

Causes of Death for the last 10 years :—

Causes.			1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlatina	..	..	..	6	1	1	..	3	2	2	2	2
Diphtheria	..	..	3	..	..	1	..	3	3	3	2	..
Membranous Croup			..	1	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..
Fevers.	Typhus	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Enteric	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Continued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Relapsing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Puerperal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	2	..	..	1	1
Measles	..	..	1	2	9	..	..	1	..	2	4	6
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1	11	4	..	1	6	1	6	1
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	..	..	3	7	3	4	12	5	3	8	9	6
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Ague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	..	..	9	2	17	8	9	18	9	7	13	9
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy			36	53	47	73	32	24	55	32	41	38
Heart Disease	..	..	22	17	28	17	12	24	16	12	21	18
Injuries	..	..	10	4	1	7	9	4	10	1	8	7
All other Diseases	..	..	94	95	135	117	86	84	106	111	100	93
Totals	..	..	178	202	254	236	160	169	213	180	208	182

BIRTHS.

The number of Births during the year was 348, being 46 more than last year. Wombourn has increased 30; Tettenhall, 1; and Kinver, 15.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Wombourn	...	96	81	177
Tettenhall	...	39	49	88
Kinver	...	38	45	83
Total		173	175	348

The excess of Births over Deaths is 166.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER. I have to record 45 cases of this in place of 57 last year, (with two deaths), a decrease of 12. We had only four cases in the last quarter, and the entire district was free from this disease in the last week in December, (and continues so up to date). The great majority of these cases have occurred in the neighbourhood of the Borough and the infection has been clearly traced to that source in several cases.

The extreme mildness of many of the cases made it more difficult to stamp out, some being undiscovered until desquamation began. In one case of wilful concealment of the disease, we took proceedings and obtained a conviction.

Thirty-four of these cases were admitted into the Isolation Hospital, the rest were deemed sufficiently isolated for us not to enforce removal.

DIPHTHERIA. There have been seven cases of this disease reported without a death, which I should consider shews that some, at any rate, were not true Diphtheria, but simulated it. The general Death Rate in the country is still high, despite the splendid effects of the anti-toxin treatment.

TYPHOID FEVER. Of the seven cases of this disease, three, at least, were clearly imported. The one death was in a man with impoverished health.

MEASLES. There was a large outbreak early in the year, necessitating the closing of the Codsall and Burnhill Green Schools for some weeks. There were no less than six deaths, due to Pulmonary complications.

INFLUENZA. The district has been scarcely free from this disease all the year, though the type is mild.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT. There have been 64 cases, showing a gradual decrease in numbers.

CASES NOTIFIED.

	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Puerperal Peritonitis.	Croup.	Typhus.	Small-Pox.	Total.
1891	17	6	6	14	—	—	—	—	43
1892	20	5	2	6	—	—	1	1	35
1893	33	9	1	1	—	—	—	—	44
1894	140	12	16	1	1	—	—	2	172
1895	61	7	19	4	—	1	—	—	92
1896	64	8	14	3	—	1	—	—	90
1897	57	4	3	3	—	—	—	—	67
1898	45	6	7	5	1	—	—	—	64
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BRATCH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This Institution continues to work most satisfactorily. Parents, without exception, express themselves more than satisfied. There have been 34 cases of Scarlet Fever admitted, a decrease of four. Unfortunately two cases of two and three years old respectively taking it severely, were too young to withstand the disease.

But I must here remind you that we have no provision whatever for Small-Pox. For large outbreaks of this, the country now must be prepared, unless ample provision is ready for immediate isolation of all cases at the very outset.

DRAINAGE. During the year there has been a considerable quantity of drainage done in the districts of Pattingham, Penn, and Codsall. Drainage is sadly needed in Kinver, and it is to be hoped that your Council will not lose sight of this matter.

I append particulars of the Drainage Works executed in the District:—

190 yards of 9 inch Sewer laid in field near National Schools, Pattingham ; 70 yards of 6 inch Sewer in Minett's Field, near to footpath, from Roebuck Inn to Ox Barn Farm, Penn ; 110 yards of 6 inch Sewer in Caddicks Sewage Field, Oaken, and Ventilator fixed to same against Jones' Farm Building ; 162 yards of 6 inch Sewer laid in Minett's Field, near to Mr. Lewis' house, Upper Penn.

300 yards of Iron Hurdles have been fixed along a ditch in Keay's Sewage Field, Ox Barn Farm.

ANALYSIS OF WATER. 23 samples of water have been analysed, 15 of which have been found polluted, and 6 wells have consequently been closed, and wholesome water provided for the others.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, CANAL BOATS, BAKE-HOUSES, AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES. 198 inspections under this head have been made. In one instance proceedings were taken, and conviction obtained.

NUISANCES. Under this heading, I refer you to the subjoined Inspector's Report.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. R. SPACKMAN,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

To the Seisdon Rural District Council.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING
THE YEAR 1898.

Number of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	672
Number of Notices on hand 31st December, 1897	...			16
Number of Notices served	...	...	...	216
Complied with	...	...	...	218
Leaving on the Books 31st December, 1898	...			14
Letters written relative to Nuisances	..	...		87
Bakehouses Inspected	...	...	...	14
Slaughter-houses Inspected	...	...	...	12
Cow Sheds Inspected	...	...	...	67
Canal Boats Inspected	...	...	...	105
Houses Closed, Unfit for Habitation	...	...		0
Repaired	...	...	...	16
Limewashed	...	...	...	48
Through Ventilation provided	...	...	...	11
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	42
Schools	„	...	...	3
Overcrowding	...	...	...	7
Yards Paved	...	...	...	7
Water Closets Repaired and Ventilated	...	...		2
Houses Spouted	...	...	...	3
Dangerous Buildings pulled down	...	...		1
Privies Removed and Reconstructed	...	...		32
„ Emptied and Cleansed	...	...	...	88
Ashpits Repaired	...	...	...	13
Ashpits built to Privies	...	...	...	7
Pan System Adopted	...	...	...	21

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED, &c.—*Continued.*

Doors and Spouting Provided	...	...	...	3
Privies Repaired	...	...	...	6
Privies Limewashed	...	...	...	11
Ashpits Removed	...	...	...	3
Yards Paved and Channelled	...	...	...	4
Drains laid to Houses	...	...	...	46
„ Repaired	...	...	...	39
„ Trapped	...	...	...	52
Cesspits Constructed	...	...	...	5
Cesspools Emptied	...	...	...	6
Foul Cesspools filled up	...	...	...	7
Ditches Cleansed	...	...	...	8
Urinals Provided	...	...	...	2
Cellars Drained	...	...	...	2
Pigsties Removed	...	...	...	16
Ceased Keeping Swine	...	...	...	7
Catchpits Built to Piggeries	...	...	...	1
Foul Pigwash Removed	...	...	...	11
Manure and other Filth Removed	...	...	...	25
Pigsties Repaired	...	...	...	7
Cowsheds Limewashed	...	...	...	14
Water Supply—Pumps Repaired	...	...	...	4
Wells Sunk	...	...	...	2
Tap Water laid on to Houses	..	...	...	158
Wells Cleansed	...	...	...	8
Pumps put to Wells	...	...	...	2
Wells Covered, Repaired, Paved and Channelled	...	...	...	3
Wells Sunk deeper	..	...	...	5
Soft Water Cisterns Cleansed	...	...	...	3
Water Analysed—Wholesome	...	...	...	8
„ Polluted	...	...	...	15
Wells Closed	...	...	...	6
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	1
Persons Summoned before the Magistrates	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	753

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1898, in the Rural District of Seisdon, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Registration Districts.		Population at all ages.		Registered Births	Aged under 5 or over 5	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.									
		Census 1891	Estimated to middle of 1898.			FEVERS.									
		Small-pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas			
WOMBOURN.	11	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				
		..	25	5	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	2
TETTENHALL.	4	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2		
				
		..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
KINVER	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				
		..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Totals	17	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2		
				
		..	28	5	..	..	4	..	..	1	..	4

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898 in the Rural District of Seisdon, classified according to Diseases,
Ages, and Localities.

Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.										Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under 5 years of age.																				
Registration Districts.	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 & upwards																							
								Small-pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Ague	Phthisis	Bronchitis and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	Total	
*WOMBOURN ..	74	25	1	..	4	16	28	Under 5 5 upwds	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	6	..	1	19	29
TETTENHALL	49	12	3	3	2	12	17	Under 5 5 upwds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	5	14
KINVER ..	59	12	4	1	2	18	22	Under 5 5 upwds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	10	16
Total ..	182	49	8	4	8	46	67	Under 5 5 upwds	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	2	2	2	..	..	11	..	1	34	59

* Trysull Workhouse Infirmary, 6 deaths, (included in the Wombourne District).

